

GB-2-TA

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION 3-5991	NO. DATE November 1987	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/MOD				
2.				
3. C/ESG				
4.				
5. C/FED				
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7. C/ADD				
8.				
9. C/HED				
10.				
11. C/Computer Operations				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15. Retain/Destroy				

MTA-7039
8 December 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- November 1987

I. GENERAL

A. FBA-1 came to Tel Aviv Bureau in November to an enthusiastic but admittedly apprehensive welcome. Fears were quickly assuaged, however, as the installation and training progressed very smoothly. By end of month the site acceptance test and operational readiness demonstration were successfully completed, and bureau operations were fully automated, with only two monitors--one about to go on maternity leave and one who transfers to the embassy's political section in December--not working on the local area network. Editors and monitors are now adjusting local procedures to the bureau's new automated mode. Formal initial operating capability was declared on 7 December.

Given the attractiveness of the offices in the Migdalor Building, the bureau is particularly pleased with the success of the LEC installation team in integrating the equipment and its wiring into the existing decor. With the exception of the presence of computers, visiting former bureau staffers would see little change in the work environment.

B. The Israeli Journalists Association reached an agreement with the Broadcasting Authority and ended a 52-day strike on 27 November, when monitoring of Israeli broadcast sources returned to normal.

C. A 5.5 percent cost of living increase was approved for mission local employees retroactive to 1 October. The increase reflects the relative stability the national coalition government has been able to achieve in the past 2-3 years, driving down the inflation rate from some 400-500 percent annually to less than 20 percent at the current rate. This is seen also in the long time between this cost of living increase and the previous one in March 1987, 7 months--the longest period since 1972 without such a compensation adjustment. How long this relative stability will last is anybody's guess, as the national elections must be held by November 1988, and then all bets are off on any stability projections.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Landau Commission, charged with investigating procedures of the general security organization, Shin Bet, released its report 1 November. Although the findings confirmed the use of physical coercion in obtaining terrorist confessions and subsequent perjured testimony regarding the methods, the report noted that such activities contravened existing laws and policies and were undertaken without the knowledge of top-level government officials.

2. On 26 November a terrorist crossed into Israel from Lebanon using a hang glider. Landing near Qiryat Shemona, the terrorist entered an IDF base and killed six soldiers and wounded seven before being killed. The PFLP-GC, led by Ahmad Jibril, claimed credit for the attack. Rumors of possible Israeli retaliation circulated, and on the 28th Beirut Radio reported increased IDF activity in the security zone. The bureau maintained an open speaker watch on IDF radio and delayed closing until the IDF responded to the rumors with a denial of security strip reinforcement.

3. The bureau extended operating hours on the 30th to report the Turkish election returns. A series of FYI's detailed the challenge to the ruling Motherland Party, which, despite receiving only 36 percent of the popular vote, will retain control of the National Assembly with some 65 percent of the seats.

B. Communications

After notification of approval to upgrade the bureau's communication circuit to 300bps ASCII operation, the bureau technical staff made all the necessary hardware changes. The upgrade was indefinitely postponed, however, when it was learned that all the final arrangements are not complete along the communications path to headquarters. The new commo configuration can support the existing 150bps baudot operation, so it has been left in place as preparation for the eventual upgrade.

C. Lateral Services

A list of FBIS-covered Arabic- and Hebrew-language publications was provided to several embassy components in conjunction with a USIS effort to compile a comprehensive list of all publications in those languages in Israel.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Hebrew monitor resigned effective 7 December to take a position as a political section translator in the embassy. The bureau plans to fill the vacated position from the "pool" of applicants created in the last major recruitment effort.

STAT

With two new Hebrew monitors in training and FBA-1 still under way, the bureau will delay hiring a new monitor until early in the new year.

IV. VISITS

A. Panama Bureau monitor [] visited the bureau 9 November while on personal travel to Israel. STAT

B. The bureau received assistance with FBA-1 from ADD representatives [] and [] who were on site 23-29 November and 13 November-8 December, respectively. Also lending a hand were regional engineer [] 10-15 November, and FEB engineer [] 27 October-22 November. The first LEC team members arrived 6 November, and the final departure is scheduled for 23 December. At the peak of installation and training activity, the bureau had 12 visitors. STAT

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 28 November [] daughter [] was married to [], a Maronite Christian, in the beautiful Salesian Church in Nazareth. After a moving ceremony that was performed in Arabic and English, those attending, including a large representation of both the bureau and the embassy, were treated to a traditional Arabic wedding reception. STAT

[]
Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC

Attachments: Production Report